

GENERAL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Feast-Day Liturgy at 9:00am

Sunday Liturgy at 10:00am

Vespers Service on Saturdays: 5:00pm

Vespers Service on the eve of a Feast-Day: 5:00pm



Schedule of Upcoming Church Services

MONDAY – Jan. 19 - HOLY THEOPHANY

Divine Liturgy with Great Blessing of Water at 9:00 a.m.

MONDAY – Jan. 19 - Vesper Service on the
eve of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST at 5:00 p.m.

(Blessing of the Slava breads)

TUESDAY- Jan. 20 - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Div. Liturgy & Blessing of the Slava Breads at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY- Jan. 25-ST. SAVA CELEBRATION

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

“John did not call the Jews to repentance because they were great sinners alone, but because the Kingdom was at hand. Where the King is present, there repentance must go before.”

St. John Chrysostom

ST. GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*905 E. Joliet Street*Schererville, IN 46375*

Parish Priest: V. Rev. Radovan Jakovljevic

Office: 219/322-3355; Fr Radovan's Cell: 847/219-2969; Home: 219-515-2589

January 18, 2026

Sunday before the Theophany

Epistle Reading: 2 Tim. 4: 5-8

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

Liturgical Message

On this holy Eve of Theophany, the Church places before us the voice of the Forerunner, as proclaimed in the Gospel according to Saint Mark: *“The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”* In the wilderness, John the Baptist appears as the final prophet of the Old Covenant and the first herald of the New, crying out, *“Prepare the way of the Lord.”* His voice breaks the silence of expectation, calling Israel—and all creation—to repentance, for the Lord now comes to reveal Himself.

John's baptism of repentance prepares hearts for a far greater mystery. He humbly confesses that he is not the Christ, nor even worthy to untie the strap of His sandals. *“I baptize you with water,”* he says, *“but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”* On this eve, we stand at the threshold of that revelation, awaiting the moment when Christ will descend into the Jordan, sanctify the waters, and manifest the Holy Trinity to the world.

As we prepare for the feast of Theophany, the Church invites us to enter the Jordan spiritually through repentance, humility, and prayer. The voice of John still calls to us today—to straighten what is crooked within us and to make room for Christ's appearing.

May our hearts become a prepared path, so that when the Lord is revealed in glory, we may receive the grace of the Holy Spirit and rejoice in the light of God who is made manifest.

Feast of the Holy Theophany of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

Icon of the Feast

The Icon of the Feast of Theophany tells the story from the Gospels in images and color. On the left side of the icon, we see John the Baptist, dressed in camel's hair and appearing to live in the wilderness. His arms are outstretched, showing an attitude of prayer and reverence, but also directing others to Christ. With his right hand, he is conducting the baptism. In the center of the icon is Christ being baptized in the Jordan. He is standing in the water wearing a waistcloth, and with His right hand, He is blessing the waters of the Jordan. Above His head is the Holy Spirit descending as a dove upon Him. At the top of the icon, a semicircle depicts the opening of the Heavens and the voice of the Father. On the right side of the icon, angels are shown with their heads bowed in reverence to Christ. They are prepared to receive Him as He comes out of the water.



The Orthodox Celebration of the Feast of Epiphany

The celebration of this Feast of our Lord begins on January 18, a day known as the Forefeast of Theophany. Depending on the day of the week, this could be an evening service with Vespers followed by the Liturgy of Saint Basil or a morning service with Matins and the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. Following the service on January 18, the Blessing of the Waters is conducted. Prior to the evening or morning service, the Royal Hours with the Typika are said.

On January 19, the day of the Feast, the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is conducted, preceded by Matins and followed by the second Blessing of the Waters.

The Blessing of the Waters is held in the church; however, in many places around the world, services are held near open bodies of water. As a sign of blessing, as Christ blessed the Jordan, holy water is poured into the body of water. An associated tradition has been the tossing of a cross into the water for divers to retrieve. The holy water from the church is given to the faithful to consume and to use in blessing their homes. In the weeks following the Feast, clergy visit parishioners' homes and conduct a service of blessing using the holy water blessed on the Feast of Theophany.

JOIN US AT **St. Sava Celebration**



SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

**KUMОВИ:
JOVAN KOLAR & KRISTINA DODIG**

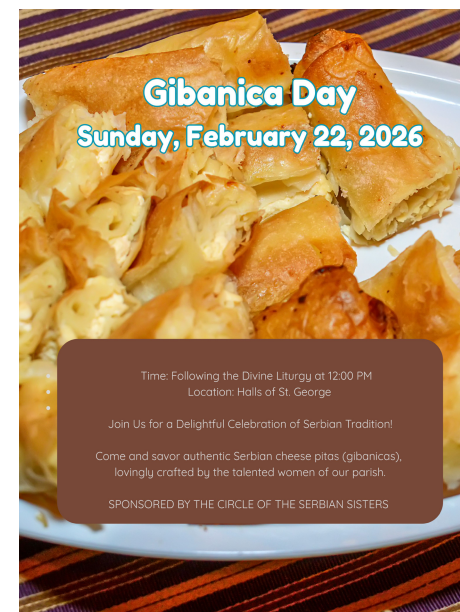
St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
Scherverville, IN

SAVE THE DATE



HUNTERS LUNCHEON

Sunday, February 15, 2026
Cetnik Memorial Hall at 1:00 pm



Gibanica Day Sunday, February 22, 2026

Time: Following the Divine Liturgy at 12:00 PM
Location: Halls of St. George

Join Us for a Delightful Celebration of Serbian Tradition!

Come and savor authentic Serbian cheese pits (gibanicas), lovingly crafted by the talented women of our parish.

SPONSORED BY THE CIRCLE OF THE SERBIAN SISTERS